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GRADE I WINNER ARKLOW TOPS SATURDAY'S \$100,000 LOUISVILLE STAKES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, June 10, 2020) – Donegal Racing, Joseph Bulger and Peter Coneway's 2019 Joe Hirsch Turf Classic (Grade I) winner **Arklow** leads a cast of 12 turf marathoners that were entered in Saturday's \$100,000 Louisville Stakes presented by Longines (GIII) at Churchill Downs.

The 1 ½-mile Louisville, run over the Matt Winn Turf Course, is carded as the 11th and final race on Saturday's program. First post will be 1 p.m. (all times Eastern).

Trained by current Churchill Downs leading trainer **Brad Cox**, Arklow will make his first start since a fifth-place finish in the \$1 million Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational (GI) in January at Gulfstream Park. The 6-year-old son of Arch has been training consistently at Churchill Downs with back-to-back workouts over the turf course with jockey **Florent Geroux** aboard.

"It was a huge relief to see him win that Grade I (in the \$500,000 Joe Hirsch Turf Classic)," Cox said. "He had such a strong campaign and was knocking on the door at a Grade I."

Arklow has recorded six victories in 25 starts including a win over the Matt Winn Turf Course at age 3 in the \$300,000 American Turf (GII) in 2017. Arklow competed in some of the nation's most prestigious turf races at age 4 and 5, including the 2018 and 2019 editions of the \$4 million Breeders' Cup Turf (GI). In the 2018 Breeders' Cup Turf, Arklow finished a well-beaten fourth behind the thrilling stretch duel of **Enable (GB)** and **Magical (IRE)**. Arklow returned to the Breeders' Cup in 2019 and finished eighth, but was only defeated 2 ¾ lengths by **Bricks and Mortar**. Geroux has the call of Saturday's Louisville and will break from post No. 5.

Among the other rivals that will line up in the starting gate for Saturday's Louisville include last year's Louisville winner **Tiz a Slam**. Owned by **Chiefswood Stables** and trained by **Roger Attfield**, Tiz a Slam cruised to a front-running score in last year's race under **Steve Bahen**. Following his victory in the Louisville, Tiz a Slam recorded wins in the \$125,000 Singpiel (GIII) and \$175,000 Nijinsky (GII) at Woodbine. He'll enter the Louisville off of a six-month freshening following a non-descript seventh-place finish in the \$200,000 Red Smith (GIII) in late November at Aqueduct. Current Churchill Downs leading rider **Tyler Gaffalione** will have the call from post 6.

Another horse likely to take attention in the race is **Amerman Racing's** multiple graded stakes placed **Admission Office**. Trained by **Brian Lynch**, Admission Office finished second behind **Zulu Alpha** in the \$200,000 Mac Diarmida (GII) at Gulfstream Park in late February. Admission Office drew post 12 with **Julien Leparoux** in the saddle.

The Louisville field from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Perfect Tapatino (FR)** (Adam Beschizza, Attfield); **Sky Promise** (David Cohen, Robertino Diodoro); **Apresiasi** (Martin Garcia, Mike Maker); **He's No Lemon** (Rafael Bejarano, Graham Motion); Arklow (Geroux, Cox); Tiz a Slam (Gaffalione, Attfield); **Lombo** (Tyler Baze, Phil D'Amato); **Jais's Solitude** (Corey Lanerie, Eddie Kenneally); **Golden Dragon** (Joe Talamo, Maker); **Fearsome (GB)** (James Graham, Cyril Murphy); **Ry's the Guy** (Chris Landeros, Ian Wilkes); and Admission Office (Leparoux, Lynch).

On Saturday, the temporary rail on the Matt Winn Turf Course will be taken down and the races will be run in Lane 1 along the inside hedge. The temporary rail will remain in Lane 2, 15 feet from the hedge, for racing on Thursday and Friday.

The National Weather Service forecast on Saturday calls for ideal conditions: sunny skies with a high of 80 degrees.

Racing from Churchill Downs on Saturday will air on **FS2** from 1-2:30 p.m. and **FS1** from 2:30-6:30 p.m. as part of FOX Sports' "America's Day at the Races" coverage. It also will be broadcast on **MSG+** from 1-6:30 p.m. and **FOX Sports Ohio** from 3-6:30 p.m.

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